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ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO: C00852/70013 JNA

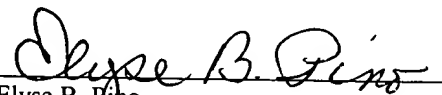
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Robert B. Chaffee  
Serial No: 09/862,858  
Confirmation No. 8373  
Filed: May 22, 2001  
For: A FASTENER FOR USE WITH A FASTENING ELEMENT AND  
AN INFLATABLE DEVICE FOR USE WITH THE FASTENER

Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Art Unit: 3627

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Box DD, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2002.

  
Elyse B. Pihl

Box DD  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THE DUTY OF  
DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98

GROUP 3600

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

PART I: Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement has been filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified case.

No fee or certification is required.

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PART II: Information Cited

A. The Applicant hereby makes of record in the above-identified application the information listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified). The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the references.

B. The Applicant hereby makes the following additional information of record in the above-identified application:

The references were cited in an International Search Report for a related application, PCT/US 01/16466, filed May 22, 2001.

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PART III: Remarks

Documents cited on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified) are enclosed unless otherwise indicated on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified). It is respectfully requested that:

1. The Examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;
2. The enclosed form PTO-1449 be signed by the Examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application;
3. The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

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By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

Notwithstanding any statements by the Applicant, the Examiner is urged to form his own conclusion regarding the relevance of the cited information.

An early and favorable action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Robert B. Chaffee, Applicant*

By: 

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Docket No. C00852/70013 JNA  
Dated: 03/22/02  
03/21/02x

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